

# SOUTHERN NEVADA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY

Las Vegas, Nevada



## The Polished Slab

Volume 63, Issue 6

### Message From The President *Craig A. Edmonds*

June 2003

### June Trip to Find Indian Blanket Jasper *Field Trips*

Dear Members and Friends,

It's that time of year again for one of our main fundraisers. If you don't know it's the International Gem and Jewelry Show at Cashman Field on May 30, 31 and June 1. If you have not taken the time to sign up to assist than please do. One of the reasons we merged both clubs together is to make these fundraisers easier on everyone. This year we did not have to make items to sell at this show and use our member's valuable time. We do need you though to spend some of your time working at the show. Please take the time to assist your club as much as you can. Lets make this show another success for our club.

Club members will have the chance to gather Indian Blanket Jasper at Enterprise, Utah, this June 21. The site is an open pit mine where you can gather as much as you want for \$10 per five- gallon bucket. Bring plenty of buckets, for good specimens are plentiful but the buckets are not.

We will meet that Saturday morning at Apex, exit 58, where Las Vegas Blvd. meets I15. We will be heading out at 7:30 and regroup at about 10:00 at the hardware store in Enterprise.

Give Bruce Wingate a call at 547-6590 and we will be looking for you.

At this time I am still looking for members who have done an outstanding job for our club in the past year to be recognized as our CFMS Member of the Year. If you know of a member or members who would be fitting of this title please let me know. We would then submit in writing what that member has done for our club to the CFMS Newsletter.

### Nevada Gems Found in the Library

*J.L. Foutz*

I enjoy looking for minerals and other treasures because it gets me outside, away from the TV, away from the glitzy neon; and into the vast, beautiful, mysterious Mojave Desert. But, on my last trip, it occurred to me just how little I really knew about this place where I live. My next exploring trip was to the library where I found the following gems.

Nevada is 117,275 square kilometers—a huge area of land. We rank seventh in the US in land area. What is astounding is that we own less than 15% of this land. The remaining (over 85%) is owned by the government. The Bureau of Land Management controls nearly 48 million acres of our home.

Three congressmen and two senators represent Nevada. The Congressmen are Shelley Berkley, First District; Jim Gibbons, Second District; and Jon Porter, Third District. The senators are John Ensign and Harry Reid.

The elevation ranges from 143 meters above sea level in the Colorado River Basin to the looming 4,006 meter summit of Boundary Peak.

(Continued on page5)



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# Director's Meeting Notes for May 2003

*Priscilla Messenger, Secretary*

The meeting was called to order By Vice-President, Frank Auerswald at 7 PM. David Finch made a motion to accept the Minutes of the April Board Meeting as read. It was seconded by Frank and the motion passed.

David Finch, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The checking and Prudential accounts of the former clubs have now been combined. Priscilla Messenger made a motion that David's report be accepted as presented. Frank seconded the motion and it passed.

Glenn Beye, Membership Chairman, will have 43 more badges ready before May 29.

The International Gem and Jewelry Show which the club will participate in May 30-June 1 was the main topic of the evening. Glenn Beye, Show Co-Chairman, gave the name of Cliff Porter as the show manager who could be contacted at (301) 294-1642, Ext. #812. Club name tags and the green vests of the club should be worn for ID. The vests will be at the area set up for our displays and demonstrations. Glenn had prepared lists of volunteers and various committees for Rich Antonick who will take over for Glenn at the actual show. We have 5 trucks to pick up club supplies on Thursday, May 29 at 10 AM at the club storage address. The setup volunteers should begin work at the Cashman Center between noon and 1 PM on Thursday and all setup should be completed by 7 PM. Rich will see to it that the proper tools arrive there.

After discussion, George Messenger, made a motion that there will be no cutting of any specimens other than the geodes we sell at the Cashman Show. People making such requests can be told they can join our club for \$10 and then go to the Club Workshop and have specimens cut for a nominal fee. David seconded this motion and it subsequently passed. The geode machine will be operated by Roger Olson, Smitty Reeves and Beth Carden. Camilla Restrepo will make signs for the show. She will also order two 8-foot by 3-foot club banners in turquoise and silver,

our club colors.

Judy Auerswald, Display Case co-ordinator, announced there will be one display case for members who have recently created silver and faceting projects in club classes. Club badges can be picked up from Priscilla Messenger or Ellen Reeves at the Membership table at the Cashman show. A motion made by George Messenger passed that Glenn Beye be reimbursed for the expense of purchasing heavy-duty, plastic containers in which to store club supplies.

Members working the show will pay for parking and submit their stubs to Rich Antonick or David Finch for reimbursement. They will be responsible for collecting reimbursement from the management daily.

The field trip on Sunday, May 18 leaves from the gas station near the Nevada Landing Casino at the Goodsprings offramp at 8 AM. Frank announced that 8 people are enrolled for the channeling classes at the club workshop. Faceting classes resume on Thursday, May 15.

Glenn Beye volunteered to check with the Las Vegas Zoo in June about updating the club displays there. Ron Antoku requested that people donating general meeting refreshments in the month of their birthday call him at 579-4759 one week before the meeting so adjustments can be made to have adequate refreshments. The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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# Minutes of the General Meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society for May 2003

*Priscilla Messenger, Secretary*

At 7:05 PM our May meeting was called to order by President Craig Edmonds and he lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance and our exchange of greetings. Craig reminded members to pick up their membership cards from Art Lory and to buy Raffle tickets from Judi Auerswald or Tom Skeary. He reminded members to take advantage of the books and magazines Librarian, Tom Ainsworth had available. Program Chair, Marybeth Paladino, introduced the evening's speaker, Sharon Rogow, an expert on beads both ancient and modern. Her program included the classes, the uses, the materials, and the origins of beads. Her bead slides included carnelian beads from Egyptian pyramids, yellow jacket chevrons from 19th century Africa, Milleflore Venetian beads, Phoenician beads and contemporary Australian beads made from eucalyptus pods.

After a refreshments break, Craig welcomed guests— Susan Davlin, David Pacheco, Charles Marshall, Deborah Simmons Evans and Edward Park. He also welcomed 3 new club members— Tom Peterson, Cathy Richmond and Dennis Pence. Mona Howells, Classes Director, announced that a new class in the art of channeling would begin Tuesday evening , May 6th at 6 PM at the Workshop. The cost of instruction and materials is \$40, and the class will continue on Tuesday evenings for 4 to 6 weeks. Art Lory announced that new tables had been built at the workshop for the new faceting machines and that classes would begin again on May 15th.

David Finch, gave the Treasurer's Report. Craig Edmonds announced that he had copies of the club's 2003 budget for those who wished further details. The members voted to have the July meeting on July 7th even though it would be very close to the long holiday weekend.

Glenn Beye, Show Chairman, thanked those who had helped him in getting out the new membership cards and new club badges in a timely fashion. He announced that Rich Antonick would be in charge of the Cashman Gem Show when he was unable to attend. Diane Hale will be in charge of raffles and auctions at that show on May 30 and 31 and June 1. Please call Judi Auerswald if you would like to have a display case at the show. Glenn needs more help with making signs for the show, and he requested some volunteers to be in charge of cutting geodes. Glenn and Jet need a crew at our storage facility to complete the inventory of our supplies , etc. before the show. Signup sheets for show workers were at the meeting.

Since Bruce Wingate was unable to attend this meeting, Craig made field trip announcements for him. On Sunday , May 18th participants will meet at the gas station of Nevada Landing casino in Jean at 8 AM. We will go to Goodsprings mine tailings for turquoise and copper minerals and probably to Sandy Valley for selenite samples. In June we will be going to Enterprise, Utah(30 miles from St. George) for Indian blanket jasper. There is a \$10 fee to collect a five-gallon bucket of the jasper. Diane Burgess announced that members were welcome to join her family for rock collecting trips out of Tonopah May 23-26. The one certain trip will leave from the Tonopah Museum at 8:30 AM on Sunday to go to Austin to a fee site for blue chalcedony. They will probably get obsidian and wonderstone also. Call Diane for further details.

It was announced that longtime member, Doug Jabaay, died in Minnesota on April 27th after a short illness. A sympathy note was sent to the family from the club. The meeting was then adjourned at 8:45 PM. Drawings for the rainbow obsidian sphere and the rock tumbler were then held.

# June 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Club Meeting	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Board Meeting	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## Class Schedule

**Cabochon**—Every Wednesday from 6 until 9. Call Ed Rupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.

**Beadworking**—Every Wednesday from 6 until 9 (Some Saturday classes may be available.). Call Jaen Reupprecht at 459-8747 to schedule.

**Faceting**—Every Thursday from 6 until 9. Call Art Lory at 648-3816 to schedule.

**Silver Smithing**—Every Tuesday from 6:30 until 9

**Wire Wrapping**—Saturdays. Call Jaen Reupprecht at 459-747 to schedule.

Call the instructors to schedule yourself into a class and to get the fees, material costs, and tools needed

## Shop Schedule

Monday: 12 to 4, and 6 until 9

Tuesday: 12 until 4

Wednesday: 12 to 4, and 6 until 9

Saturday: By appointment. Call 459-8747 to schedule.

### Instructors

**Cabochons:** Ed Rupprecht 459-8747

**Faceting:** Art Lory 648-3816

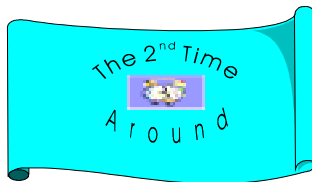
**Wirewrapping:** Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747

**Beading:** Jaen Rupprecht 459-8747

**Silver Smithing:** Mona Howells 645-3587

## June Birthdays

Name	Day	Name	Day
Peggy Keifer	1	Ronald Antoku	14
Gail Seidner	2	Evarae McAfee	17
Frank Auerswald	6	Carolyn Edmonds	17
Sara Smith	7	Donn Carpenter	21
Judi Auerswald	7	Joe Panek	22
Gordon Warren	9	Thomas Hudak	27
Bill Lemmon	10	Mark Moore	30
Dave Finch	12		



### *Our Past*

**Submitted by Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek**

*B.*

This month we want to recognize our long time member, Lou Bartlett, for her dedication to both Gem Club Societies. She has been a member of the Clark County Gem Club and the Las Vegas Gem Club for many, many years.

Reviewing older issues of both club bulletins; Gem Times and the Polished Slab, her name occurs frequently, and going through the old photo albums, we find many photos of her club participation. Just recently she donated many pounds of back issues of Gem Times, the Las Vegas Gem Club bulletin.

Thanks so much, Carl and Marcia Richwine, for picking up and bringing the bulletins donated by Lue Bartlett to the meeting for us. We really appreciate your help.

We also want to thank Jerry Bertschi and Lynn Whalen for their donation of several boxes of past records and bulletins from both clubs. Jerry and Lynn were and are very active from President on down to various other office positions and functions. For this donation we want to thank Craig and Caroline Edmonds for seeing that we received this donation at the meeting.

Due to the remodeling of our kitchen and other areas of our forty year old house, we have not had or allowed the time to review and catalog what we have received for the historian.

Hopefully we will get back to it very soon and a reminder again,

we will appreciate any donations, large or small, old bulletins, or any bulletins, photos (preferably labeled please); anything to contribute to the history of our club.

You may bring the material to the meeting, or call us and we will arrange a pick up. We are striving to make the historian notebooks something to be proud of for future generations.

So, please, when you are rearranging, cleaning or making more room in your home or storage; please remember and donate old stuff for your Gem Club history collection.

## Long-time Club Member Doug Jabaay Passes Away in Minnesota

The club has learned the sad news that long-time member Doug Jabaay died Sunday, April 27th at his family's home in Apple Valley, Minnesota.

Doug was a member of both clubs, CCGC and LVGC. His presence will be sorely missed.

Joan Fortier has sent a card from the club to the family in care of one of his daughters: Steve and Vanessa Kahle, 8612 Holland Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124. The club has sent a donation to Doug's Masonic Lodge.

The family requests memorial donations be made to Bloomington Lodge No. 340 AF&AM, Box 20225, Bloomington, MN 55420.

## Nevada Gems (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Most of Nevada lies within the Great Basin, a series of 90 basins with interior drainage. The water does not drain into one of the oceans, but into lakes or marshes.

The Great Basin encompasses 338,000 square kilometers. It ranges from the Sierra Nevadas in California to the Wasatch Mountains of Utah. Nevada is almost 966 Km on the eastern border and about half that on the western, and almost 644 Km across. To the north is the Colombia basin and to the south is the Colorado River basin.

Nevada's annual rainfall is only 22.86 cm (about 9 inches to the metrically challenged) and most of that is in the north.

Nevada remained mostly unknown and unexplored until the 1820s, then only very few settled here until alluring riches colored gold and silver beckoned to the masses in the 1860s. The Comstock Boom in 1859 exploded the population from 14,000 to over 27,000 from 1860 to 1861.

Nevada became a territory in 1861, and a state in 1864. The state motto is "All for our country," and the nicknames are Silver State, Sagebrush State, and Battle-Born State. Nevada's state song is Home Means Nevada.

Most of the population, which increased from 489,000 in 1970 to 1,201,883 in 1990, live in Reno and Las Vegas-Henderson. Nevada has been the fastest growing state in the union since 1970.

# By and Beye

## Club Notes

### Glenn Beye

We have completed a design for badges and will now accept orders.

The badges have a magnet that can be used to attach to clothing. The magnet can be left off for those who want to use other ways of wearing the badge.

The price is \$8. Members have already purchased the badges. If you want a badge, come prepared with the cash and we will get yours ordered.

Unfortunately I must have your \$8 prior to ordering. You can send in a check to the club if you wish to order by mail, Please make sure the Spelling is clear. Or, if you have nick-names, be sure to let us know prior to engraving.

Camila Restrepo 737-1741 is asking for volunteers for the Christmas party committee.

If you are interested in being on this committee call her or call Glenn Beye and let them know.

Don't forget the show.

We are not turning down any help, We need more people to help with sales, dirt, saws, and just plain moral support. Call Rick Antonic at 837-5327 if you can schedule help. If you cant contact him come to the show and have a good time.

Parking Is free for the helpers. Pay the parking fee first then get a refund from Rick. Your badge and your tickets will get you in the show for free. Helpers Do Not PAY!

ID Badges will be available if you do not have a club badge. Those who ordered badges will be able to get them from Mrs. Messenger, who will also have the Membership cards. Mrs. Messenger is going to help with new membership, and she will not turn down helpers with that job. See Diane Hale for donations, 897-4906. Drop off donations at the shop or bring them to the show. We will be Loading trucks at storage at 10:00 AM on 29 May. and tear down the show on 1 Jun starting 4:00 PM. Show hours will be Friday starting at noon, Saturday starting at 10: AM and Sunday Starting at 11:00 Come And Have a good time.

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## Visit the Highest Concentration of Rock Art in the Western Hemisphere

Little Petroglyph Canyon, located in the Coso Range of the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS), China Lake, California, contains what has been described as the highest concentration of rock art in the Western Hemisphere.

Thousands of designs have been chipped into the dark desert varnish over the past 16,000 years and the images are as varied as the-artists- who created them. The images include bighorn sheep, snakes, anthropomorphic figures and abstract "entoptic" designs.

In cooperation with NAWS, the Maturango Museum offers guided public tours to Little Petroglyph Canyon. Scheduled tours are conducted at times that do not interfere with the Navy mission.

Little Petroglyph Canyon is approximately 1.2 miles of sandy wash. Some spots are rocky and may be difficult for non-hikers. Good walking boots/shoes are a must. Pit toilets, as well as a covered picnic area, are provided at the top of the canyon, but all participants must bring their own food and water. It is recommended that participants bring two liters of water per person.

**Regular Tour:** \$15/member,\$25/non-members Meet at the Maturango Museum at 8:00 am 100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 Check in with a Museum Assistant and watch orientation videos.

Tour guides will arrange cars in a caravan as required by NAWS. (All cars must go & return from the petroglyphs in a group).

Tours will return to the Museum between 4:00 and 4:30 pm The regular tour is limited to 50 participants.

Important Rules: Strictly adhered to by the Navy & the Museum No Pets. No Children under 10 (4th grade). No RV's and trucks with cab-over campers. No alcohol. No firearms.

Additional Guidelines:

It is a 90 mile round trip. No stops will be made along the way for gas, food, or water. The drive to the canyon includes a steep climb and approximately 5 miles of dirt road. Bring plenty of water for your vehicle. Low-clearance vehicles are not recommended.

The canyon starts at 5,000 feet and can very hot or cool-layered clothing, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen are recommended. Dates are weekends in March, April, May and first weekend of June.

for more information contact; Petroglyph Tour Coordinator, Maturango Museum Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 2 pm, Friday 1:00-5 pm

Updated information can also be found on our Website! [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org) (760-375-6900).

MOROKS Monrovia Rockhounds Newsletter MARCH 2003

## COPROLITES REVEALS PREHISTORIC DIET

We would be a lot better off if we followed the diet of prehistoric man" according to Dr. Vaughn Bryant, Jr., a scientist at Texas A & M University in College Station.

How does he know what people ate thousands of years ago? The Paleobotanist has spent the last several years collecting copro-lites - petrified human waste - at archeolog-ical sites in Southwest Texas. He takes them to his laboratory and determines the food eaten by those short, stoop-shouldered, bandy-legged people who once roamed the earth. One of his coprolites is 400,000 years old!

In the past, Bryant said, human coprolites were inadvertently destroyed or discarded by archeologists. Only recently have coprolites been saved with any regularity. "The undigested seeds and bones found in the feces of prehistoric man give us the clue to the types of food he ate," Bryant said.

The Scientist said early man, at least those he is studying in Southwestern Texas were healthy despite the hardships of existence and the absence of medical attention. "My research shows they ate a well-balanced diet," Bryant said. "There was something in man to seek out the types of food his body needed." He said prehistoric man knew nothing of minerals or vitamins, "but they were not deformed. And, looking at their teeth, they could have said: "Look, Morn, no cavities."

Bryant said prehistoric man got vitamin C from the leaf of a desert plant. Calcium came from hackberry seeds. Sunflowers provided vitamin B-6 and B-12, and cactus pads gave bulk and taste like green beans. Meat - lizards, mice, crickets, grasshoppers and fish were eaten either raw or cooked.

Bryant tried the prehistoric diet to remove some of "the flab" around his waist. He admitted he bypassed the lizards and rats, "but I did eat a lot of bulk, turnips, a plant called jimaca, and some cactus pads.

Gem City Rock News - February - 2003

# Spotlight on Bucketite

## Also Known as Backyardite

This is a type of rock that forms in buckets, milk crates, boxes, and other containers in the backyards and garages of long-time rockhounds. It's properties vary widely; any color, texture, or hardness may be found in these deposits. Often the best material is found in small pieces at the bottom of the container; greater patience is needed to sift through a typical bucketite deposit. These deposits are generally pretty filthy, though the stones are easily removed and cleaned. Beware of spiders and other vermin, especially in larger deposits and in hotter climates.

On the other hand, the material is quite often pre-slabbed, and the slabs will occasionally already have cabochon outlines marked on them. How can you tell if a piece of rock is bucketite? If you can't tell what it is and someone asks you, just tell them it's bucketite. If you got it out of a bucket, even if you can identify it, it's bucketite. For more information or to see some bucketite, contact a long-time rockhound.

via The Tumble Rumble

## Fighting Wolves

An old Cherokee is telling his grandson about a fight that is going on inside himself. He said it is between two wolves.

One wolf is evil: Anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

The other wolf is good: Joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith . . .

The grandson thought about it for a minute, and then asked his grandfather, "Which one wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one I feed."

via: *NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER 9/2002*

## Mysteries in Nevada's Rocks

J.L. Foutz



Academic research of the ancient inhabitants of Nevada has determined that the Desert Culture people lived in the Great Basin 12 to 20 thousand years before the first white man crossed the ocean. They were nomads who moved with their possessions to harvest each new crop of natural seeds, bulbs, and berries as they ripened. They moved north in the summer and south during colder months (It is unknown if they drove large RVs.).

Most of our knowledge of these people come from relics and artifacts uncovered by archeologists who study the lives and cultures of ancient civilizations and from petroglyphs or rock carvings, which can be found throughout Nevada.

Petroglyphs depict animals, weapons, and geometric designs. Their meaning is unknown.

It is interesting that horses are depicted in some of the drawings, since horses disappeared in North America at the end of the Ice Age. Native Americans did not acquire horses until the Spanish brought them to Florida and Mexico in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Modern native Americans have studied history from "talkers," who have preserved an oral history of Navajo and Hopi culture for centuries. They have attempted to lean of the Anasazi, and of the secrets chipped into the desert rocks, but there is no knowledge of the petroglyphs of the Desert Culture people.

The mystery may be solved only when archeologists decipher the code the ancients left in the desert rocks.

Reference:

Miluck, Nancy Christian, 1994, Nevada This is Your Land: Dragon Enterprises, Genoa, Nevada.

## Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 94744, Las Vegas NV 89193

HTTP://www.sngms.org

E-mail: admin@sngms.com

The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, mineral, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations. We are incorporated for the purpose of promoting an active interest in Geology, Gemology and facilitate an improvement in knowledge of the art of cutting, polishing, collecting and displaying gems. We began in 1932, and became the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society in 2003. The very first Polished Slab was published in 1940 by Paul Mercer.

### Officers - Board of Director - Committee Chairmen

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**Show Chairman:** Glenn Beye 655-0280

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Editors: Please send exchanges to: Polished Slab Editor *P.O. Box 94774 Las Vegas NV 89193*

**The Polished Slab, June 2003**

**Club Gemstone:** Turquoise

**Club Colors:** Turquoise and Silver

**Club Logo:** Arrowhead

**Club Motto:** Rocks-R Us

**Annual Dues**

**Individual:** \$10.00

**Family:** \$15.00

Club / Membership Name Badges are available at \$8 each

Meetings: 7:00 PM the first Monday of each month at the Senior Center 450 Bonanza at Las Vegas Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 702-229-6454

Visitors are always welcome.

Please bring a friend or two.

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